

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-6.

BALTIMORE SUN
3 December 1981

Panel finds CIA chief fit for job

Washington (AP)—The Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday handed William J. Casey a tepid endorsement to stay on as CIA director, but declared he had displayed "an insufficient appreciation" of his obligation to be open and truthful with Congress.

Following the release of the committee's six-page report on his past business dealings, Mr. Casey declared that he was pleased the senators had "reported nothing which reflects on the integrity, the business practices and the ethical standards in which I have always taken pride."

The committee's statement, notable for its negative phrasing, said that its four-month investigation into the intelligence

chief's past business dealings had found "no basis . . . for concluding that Mr. Casey is unfit" to stay in office.

At the same time, the panel criticized Mr. Casey for being "at minimum inattentive to detail," and said his financial disclosures to Congress "were deficient in several respects."

Only one senator, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D, Del.), dissented from the report: declaring flatly that he had no confidence in Mr. Casey.

Another committee Democrat, Senator Walter D. Huddleston of Kentucky, said that although he signed the report he believes President Reagan should fire the CIA director.